



**Aloha e Friends,**

I hope you and your 'ohana are safe and well, and that you had a great spring break! As we approach our "Second Lateral" deadline (March 24), for our 2023 legislative session, hundreds of bills have been heard in their respective committees, and many have died.

Only about 10% of the 3,000+ bills introduced each session make it to the finish line and become law. Out of 255 bills referred to my Agriculture and Environment Committee, 113 measures were reported out from the AEN Committee. The upcoming Friday, March 24 deadline will reduce that number even more.

Please contact me at (808)586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Instagram [@GabbardAloha](https://www.instagram.com/GabbardAloha), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and Twitter [@GabbardAloha](https://twitter.com/GabbardAloha).

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

## MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

## DISTRICT 21

Kapolei,  
Makakilo,  
Kalaeloa,  
and portions of:  
Fernandez  
Village,  
Ewa

## DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Listen Story Community Meeting

On Saturday, March 25, 9-10am I'll be hosting my Listen Story Community Meeting for the first time at [Ho'okele Elementary School](#). There is plenty of parking in front of the school, and we'll be in the dark purple Building A...walk in and you'll see our meeting sign! Mahalo nui Ho'okele for accommodating us 😊 The meeting is a hybrid, so people can attend either in-person at Ho'okele Elementary, or via Zoom. Joining us will be Special Guest [UH West O'ahu](#) Vice Chancellor of Administration, David McDonald. There will be time for Q & A. Following Vice Chancellor McDonald's presentation, I'll give some brief community updates. Please send me an email at [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) to RSVP or for the link to join via Zoom.

Save the Date!

**PRINCE KŪHIŌ PARADE**  
K A P O L E I

**SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023**  
**5:00PM**

COUNCIL for NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

The Prince Kuhio Parade is taking place on Saturday March 25!

**PARADE ROUTE**

Route: Kapolei Hale to Ka Makana Ali'i  
Limited Street Parking, Old K-Mart Lot and Kapolei Hale (closes at 7pm)  
Shuttle service from Ka Makana Ali'i between 6-8pm

## Prince Kūhiō Parade Kapolei

The [Prince Kūhiō Parade](#) is one of the legacy parades recognized by the State of Hawai'i. This annual gathering, brought to you by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and supported by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, brings together community groups from across our state to celebrate the life and legacy of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole. The two-mile parade will start at [Kapolei Hale](#) and end at [Ka Makana Ali'i Shopping Center](#) with a Ho'olaule'a celebration with food, vendors, and music! Bring your 'ohana! There's free parking available at Kapolei High School and Ka Makana Ali'i. For a map of the route and more info, please [click here](#).

# DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Waimanalo Agriculture Association Meeting

The Waimanalo Agriculture Association (WAA) held their bi-monthly meeting on March 9 at the Plant Place in Waimanalo. Before discussing legislative priorities, WAA hosted a very informative [Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle](#) Demonstration project with University of Hawai'i CRB representatives, Mike Melzer and Keith Weiser. They shared info on preventing CRB infestation, and some best practices for mitigating the spread of the destructive beetles. The CRB can grow up to 2.5 inches long and they're spreading across our island at a faster rate than farmers can tackle. If you see this beetle anywhere in Hawai'i- call 643-PEST or report it [online!](#) If you'd like to contact the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Plan, you can do so at [info@crbhawaii.org](mailto:info@crbhawaii.org).



On March 9, 2023 the Waimanalo Agriculture Association held their bi-monthly meeting, with a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle demonstration by University of Hawai'i CRB representatives. Different ways of preventing CRB and also mitigating their impacts were demonstrated and discussed.

policy consultant for the Asian Development Bank and a climate change specialist at UNESCO, with his research on climate change recently published by Georgetown University in Washington DC. Fale is from Samoa and credits his elderly grandparents for their example of public service.

## Sharon Hurd and Morris Atta Senate Confirmation

Each year, the Senate is responsible for confirming the Governor's nominees to various boards, commissions, and judicial seats. These nominations are transmitted by a "Governor's Message" from the Governor to the Senate President. The President then transmits these notices to the Senate Clerk who numbers and posts them online – available to the general public, similar to the bill process.

As a Senate body, we're responsible for voting on the nominees from the Governor. The "advise and consent" process can be long and arduous, depending on the character of the nominee and other variables. As our 2023 Legislative Session progresses, the Governor's nominees will have their hearings set by the appropriate committee. The hearings for Sharon Hurd, Chair for the Department of Agriculture, and Morris Atta, Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, were referred to my Agriculture and Environment (AEN) committee and passed out last week. Similar to a bill, they must now be voted on by the entire Senate before they can be officially confirmed..



Sen. Gabbard met with Fale Andrew Lesā JP, city councilor for Auckland, New Zealand, on March 15, 2023.

## Andrew Lesa — Visit from New Zealand

On March 15, I had the pleasure of meeting with Fale Andrew Lesā JP and introducing him to the Senate during [our morning session](#). Fale is a 33-year-old city councilor for Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand and the largest local authority in all of Australasia. He was previously a

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



On March 13, 2023, nominees Sharon Hurd, Chair for the Department of Agriculture, and Morris Atta, Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, were confirmed by the Senate committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN). Pictured L-R: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Sen. Gabbard, Sharon Hurd, Morris Atta, Sen. Lynn DeCoite, Sen. Tim Richards, and Sen. Brenton Awa.

## Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM)

I was honored to recognize the amazing folks who do so much to rid our beautiful island paradise of invasive species. Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) is celebrated every year during the month of February - punctuated by an awards ceremony, coordinated by my office and the [Hawai'i Invasive Species Council \(HISC\)](#). Due to the pandemic, this was the first time in 3 years we've been able to celebrate in person! We've done Zoom recorded video awards but it's definitely not the same. (We still did some of that this year in honor of our Neighbor Island awardees who couldn't make it to O'ahu.) Awards were presented to the following individuals, in the categories listed here:

- [Outstanding Business Leader - Uloha](#)
- [Greatest Hit – Chef Hui](#)

### •Community Hero

- [Scott Snider](#)
- [Terry Tolman](#)
- [Wally Ito](#)

- [Hawaii Island MVP – David Okita](#)
- [Maui Nui MVP - Timmy Paulokaleioku Bailey](#)
- [Oahu MVP - Carol Kwan](#)
- [Kauai MVP - Saa Ginlack, Tamba Surf](#)

Award Ceremony - [HISC AWARD VIDEO 3.3.23.mp4](#)

## Carissa Moore Honored on the Senate Floor

A big AlohaCongrats to Carissa Moore, who was honored on March 20, 2023 by the Hawai'i State Senate [during floor session!](#) Carissa is not only the first-ever female gold medalist in Olympic surfing history, but also the world's first Olympic gold medalist in surfing. Carissa shares the spirit of Aloha wherever she goes and is a strong advocate for charity. You can find info on her non-profit "Moore Aloha" [here](#).



Sen. Gabbard met Olympian gold medalist and world-class surfer Carissa Moore, who was honored during the Hawai'i Senate's floor session on March 20, 2023.

Things have changed dramatically over the years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the dedication and commitment of the HISC volunteer community. Special thanks to Chelsea Arnett, HISC Coordinator, for coordinating the volunteers and Legislators (Sen. Lynn DeCoite, and Reps. Nicole Lowen, David Tarnas, and Ellie Cochran). Mahalo nui loa to everyone who came in person, and for all of those in zoom land... until next year. A hui ho!

## 2023 Legislation

March 9 was First Crossover, when all the bills we've been deliberating on in the Senate that passed Third Reading cross over to the House; and the House bills that passed Third Reading cross over to the Senate. We've been hearing these bills over the past two weeks with our next deadline on Thursday, March 23.

# 2023 LEGISLATION

**My bills that crossed over to the House and are still alive are below: (18 out of 80 introduced!)**

<a href="#">SB419 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION.	Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB420 SD2 HD1</a>	RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS.	Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; Department of Agriculture; Interagency Food Systems Plan; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB422 SD1</a>	RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.	Environmental Advisory Council; Housekeeping Measure
<a href="#">SB426 SD2 HD1</a>	RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.	Cesspools; Mandatory Upgrade, Conversion, or Connection; Cesspool Conversion Working Group; Prioritization
<a href="#">SB428 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.	Cesspools; Wastewater Management; Financial Strategy; Plans; Counties; Reports
<a href="#">SB430 SD2</a>	RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO FOOD BANK PROGRAM.	Hawaii Farm to Food Bank Program; Hawaii Food Assistance Program; Special Fund; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB504 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.	PFAS; Food Packaging; Food Service Ware; Cosmetics; Personal Care Products; Prohibition
<a href="#">SB511 SD1</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.	Department of Agriculture; Small Agriculture Equipment; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB516 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO HEMP.	Hemp Producers; Commercial Hemp Production; Labeling
<a href="#">SB520 SD2</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.	Leeward Community College; Farm Succession Pilot Program; HDOA; Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB637 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO HEMP.	Commercial Hemp Processing; Structures and Buildings
<a href="#">SB646 SD1</a>	RELATING TO ORNAMENTAL GINGER.	Ornamental Ginger; Pathogens; Research and Prevention; UH; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB652 SD1</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.	Invasive Species; Control and Mitigation; Two-Lined Spittlebug; Feral Chickens, Roosters, and Pigs; Five-Year Pilot Program; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB660 SD2 HD1</a>	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.	HDOA; Healthy Soils Program; Carbon Sequestration; Appropriation
<a href="#">SB655 SD1 HD1</a>	RELATING TO HEMP.	Hemp Producers; Commercial Hemp Production; Cultivation
<a href="#">SB1456 SD1</a>	RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE SPRB; REVENUE BONDS TO HONOKAA LAND COMPANY, LLC.	Honokaa Land Company
<a href="#">SB1457 SD1</a>	RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE SPRB; REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST KOHALA MOUNTAIN FISH COMPANY, LLC.	Kohala Mountain Fish Company
<a href="#">SB1552 SD2</a>	RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.	DLNR; Hawaii Ant Lab; Little Fire Ant; Appropriation